

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

October 1992

October Meeting Program is Field Day Revisited - Under the Big Top

Just when you thought Field Day was over for the year, here we are in October and we're resurrecting it once again. This time though you can kick back and enjoy the good times. A specially edited 35-40 minute video tape will be shown as the meeting program.

The tape is loaded with personal poignant vignettes of FD, live on-the-air contacts and scenes depicting the struggle of ham against the elements (as in antennas).

Ron Schneider, N5RBC, shot the footage. Bill Denton, WA5DWX, edited the tape courtesy of the Spring Branch media facility. Also assisting in the editing was Dave Hanus, N5RCQ. Efforts are being made to have the official results of our scoring and placement in time for the meeting.

There was much ado about a certain tent during Field Day. According to reliable sources it took longer and required more supervisors to put up the tent than it did to mount all of the beams and wire antennas of Field Day. Somebody has even mentioned an Aggie fire drill during the whole event.

If you were not there for all of FD or if you've already forgotten what happened then you need to bring your OFF insect repellent, extra flashlight and pencil (maybe popcorn, too) and be here. You might even be in it so you need to be present to defend yourself. You won't believe what film creates, or captures.

Come early Friday evening, October 16th, for some eyeball QSOing and then enjoy the show. See you there!

September Meeting Recap

Chris Borger, KB5PSA, presented the considerations that go into constructing your own satellite antenna. He showed that there are very practical ways to do the job inexpensively. Field Day proved that it really can work. There are plenty of resources out there for those who want to give it a try.

Your Chance to Win

Kenwood TM 732A Dualbander & Realistic Scanner
NARS RAFFLE

Drawings at Houston Ham Convention Nov. 8th
11 Chance book for \$10 or \$1.00 each

NARS Calendar

--- *plan now!*

Oct. 16 - Regular monthly membership meeting at the Cypress Creek Emergency Center - 7:30 PM.

Oct. 17 - V.E. License Exam session at Tomball Community Center - 8:30 AM.

Nov. 6-8 - Houston Ham-Convention & Hamfest. Swapfest, lectures, equipment display and sales, Raffle drawing and more...

Nov. 13 - NARS Directors meeting at Dick Rousseau's home - 8:00 PM.

Nov. 14 - Webelos Scout Ham radio demonstration at Sealy campsite - 8:00 - 5:00.

Nov. 20 - Regular monthly NARS membership meeting and club elections at the Cypress Creek Emergency Center - 7:30

Dec. 11 - NARS Directors meeting at Dick Rousseau's home - 8:00 PM.

Dec. 18 - Regular monthly NARS membership meeting at the Cypress Creek Emergency Center - 7:30 PM.

Jan. 23 - NARS Annual Awards Banquet.

Brazos Bend Park Bike Hike a Real Party With Sierra Club

As promised, the Sierra Club's Brazos Bend Bike Hike turned out to be a great experience, especially for those who like to see the sun rise. A sizable caravan headed south in the darkness last Saturday and set up the organization to cover activities for the bike ride. Dick Rousseau, N5JJZY, took the lead car and Bill Denton, WA5DWX, searched out problems with the first aid vehicle. Paul Frantz, KF5SB, and Scott Byrd, N5KEU, held down the net control. Break points were manned by Jim Clarke, N5FIX, Jim Sullivan, KB5SGY, Jay Rubens, KI5MD, and Cindy Rubens, KB5RTX.

Along the way, check points were manned by such as Rich Richardson, KI5MH, Jimmy Kirk, KB5SGW, Don Wade, WB5IBT, Bill Rimmer, N5LYG, Paul Glosch, N6YFH, Scott Peterson, KI5DR, Vince Hayes, KC0LM, Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI, Steve Baun, AA5VD, Odel Hamilton, N5QLM, Curt Furtado, KI5AK, and Marian Denton, KB5SDV. These folks kept an eye on things to report to the sag wagon riders Paul Owen, N5NXS, Eric Schoonmaker, KB5SGS, Ed Russell, KB5QLX, Tommy Jackson, N5MGM, and Jim Sutherland, N5SBP. Goldwing rovers Mac North, N5TBI, Bill Wilson, KA5GHI, and Wood Lockhart, N5ZUC, kept an eye on things in progress along the trail.

We should have a good record of all that went on with Brad Nelson, WD5GNI, capturing photos throughout the event. With such good weather and so few problems it could not have been a greater outing. Participation in events like this gives us good practice in controlled communications and provides an opportunity to use our hobby for the benefit of others. If you missed it this year just wait till next.

Notes From the President Dick Rousseau, N5JZY

Well, if you didn't attend the public service event at the Sierra Club Bike Hike in September, you missed a good time. Over thirty of us attended and did an excellent job of providing needed communication for the hike. The weather was nice and there were no injuries to speak of, at least none requiring medical treatment. The Sierra Club raised a good amount of money for their club and wanted me to thank all of you who participated.

The Houston Ham Convention is just around the corner (Nov. 6-8) and we will need people to work the swap meet and help sell raffle tickets. Give Scott Byrd, N5KEU, or Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, a call and volunteer your services.

Don't forget our public service event for the Webelos Cub Scouts in Sealy on Nov. 11th and 21st. Both are Saturdays and we will be setting up ham radio demonstrations for 150 Scouts to show them a little something about communications. Contact BT Burke, N5QVS, to volunteer.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge Bill Denton, WA5DWX and his efforts to provide such good programs this year. Bill is a relatively new member but has surely taken the programs over and done an excellent job. Bill... Thanks. Well so much for this month.

See you at the meeting Friday!

Do you have something lying around you've been wanting to get rid of but don't quite know how to? Maybe there is something you are looking for but don't know where to look. Remember that ads in the NARS News are free to members. Give it a try.

* * * * PROPAGATION * * * *

by Roy Hradilek, AD5Q

What a difference a month makes! During September, the bands made the transition from the doldrums of summer to the excellent conditions that make this season so special to testers. Europeans have returned to 10 meters, and 15 is in especially good shape. Things are back to normal - almost. Fluxes are lower this year, and this will effect 10 meters more than any other DX band.

Fall is always the peak season for 10 meters (better than spring). It is a daytime band that requires considerable sunspot activity to open up high latitude paths to Europe and Asia. Polar contacts on 10 are especially challenging, and are usually made during the weeks when the grey line is aligned near the pole. Earlier (August / September) summer absorption attenuates daytime propagation. Later in the fall season (November) it is already too dark over the pole for 10 meter propagation. October, therefore, is the peak month for worldwide propagation on this band. The windows to Asia should be watched around sunrise and sunset, and they will often be closed this year because of the lower fluxes. Later in the fall season, the grey line will lead to Europe in the morning, and we can expect plenty of activity.

15 meters is less sensitive to the drop in solar flux, and is currently open to all parts of the world. There will likely be days this season when the fluxes are too low to open parts of Europe on 10 (e.g. Russia), but the paths will be open on 15. DX'ers should develop a feel for what kind of propagation to expect at various flux levels. Conditions on 10 will be excellent when fluxes are around 150, but very different when it dips below 100. When the fluxes are low, move to 15 meters and watch for extended daypath propagation on 20.

20 meters will probably start closing at night early in the season, but it is summer in the southern hemisphere where the band will stay open all night. This means that we will continue to have reliable long path, with plenty of exotic DX coming through in the hours after sunrise. 40 meters is in great shape at night, and we are in for an excellent DX season through the spring. This band will also become very crowded in the evening when 20 starts closing early. October is a good month for working the southern hemisphere on 80 meters.

NARS Notes

Scott Byrd, N5KEU, and Ed Russell, KB5QLX, are heading up raffle ticket sales this year at Ham-Com. They need you energetic help to make this year's NARS raffle a big success. Give then a little of your time at the convention or just make a few calls. There's a good chance to win a new mobile dualbander or scanner so don't be left out.

The September License test session, held at the Tomball Community Center, tested 12 elements with 11 being passed. One person traveled all the way from Santa Fe Texas for the session. Congratulations to those advancing who were BT Burke (N5QVS) to General, Harlan Moore (KI5UG) to Extra, Blake Ptesent (KB5RZM) to Tech Plus, David Dorba and Brett Crammer to Technician. Element 2 was passed by Shirley Kujawa and Carl Kujawa and element 3B was passed by Daniel Kitcher (KB5TEP). Mark Tyler (K5GQ) conducted the session with the help of Roger Runnels, Bob Walworth (AK5B), Tim Wettach (N2TW), and Cal White (WA5W). If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Examiner or helping with our test sessions contact Mark (K5GQ) at 587-0256 or Paul Frantz (KF5SB) at 351-8930. The next testing will be on Saturday, October 16.

1992 NARS Field Day Results (N5FD)

Band	Fone	CW	Score Computation	
10	0	0	SSB Points	3220
15	0	238	CW Points	4840
20	1050	627		
40	256	256	Contact Points	8060
80	0	22		
Novice...			Bonus...	
10	301	31	Satellite Bonus	100
15	n/a	0	Emergency Pwr	100
40	n/a	19	Media Coverage	100
80	n/a	13	Public Place	100
AmSat...	3	4	Section Mgr Msg	100
	1610	1210	Field Day Msg	100
Total Contacts:		2820	Total Score:	8660

Please submit articles for publication in the NARS News to Ken Harlan, KA5AKG, by the 1st Friday of the month.

NARS NEWS is published monthly
by Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Editor: Jim Clark, N5FIX
8800 Hammerly #1107
Houston, TX 77080
(713) 468-6050

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is
a Special Service Club affiliated with
the American Radio Relay League.
ARRL Club No. 2120

NARS MEETS the third Friday of each
month at the Cypress Creek EMS Bldg.
16650 Sugar Pine Lane (beneath the
water tower) which is one block east of
Kuykendahl and two blocks south of
FM 1960. Meeting time: 8:00 P.M.
Eyeball QSO's : about 7:30 P.M.

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday
8 AM at Crack Farms Restraunt, located
at Louetta Rd. - Informal ragchew

NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRMAN
Dick Rousseau, N5JZY 370-5714

VICE PRESIDENT
BT Burk, N5QVS 370-1955

SECRETARY
Keith White, N5RVZ 820-5073

TREASURER
Jay Rubens, KI5MD 893-3023

DIRECTORS
Paul Frantz, KF5SB 351-8930
Dan Cassiani, N5KPI 376-0215
Brad Nelson, WD5GNI 370-0934
Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI 376-0215

NARS BOARD MEETS the second
Friday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the
home of Dick Rousseau, 7826 Heathrow
Ln, Houston. All members are invited to
attend.

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 P.M.
28.444 MHz (BT, N5QVS)

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 P.M.
146.06 / .66 MHz (Ken, KA5AKG)

EMERGENCY NETS

NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY ARES
WEDNESDAY 8:30 P.M.
146.06 / .66 MHz (Scott, N5KEU)

CITY OF HOUSTON - EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT NET
SATURDAY 9:00 AM 146.84(-) MHz
SATURDAY 9:30 AM 3.905 MHz

NARS REPEATERS

2 M - 146.060 / 146.660 MHz
70 cm - 449.375 / 444.375 MHz
Digipeter - 145.07 MHz
Call (W5BKK) Alias (NARS)

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL
KEN EDINBORGH, W5BKK 376-7660

NARS

KEN HARLAN, KA5AKG
12034 Laneview Dr.
Houston, TX 77070

PAUL FRANTZ KF5SB
22911 WREN LANE
TOMBALL, TX 77375